"HEART OF AMERICA"

May 30, 1986

BLESSING

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Pastor
Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

Almighty God, you have made the world and blessed it with your creative energy. You were present at the beginning, hovering over the waters, as a Spirit of power and beauty and love and life.

We thank you Lord God, for the goodness of it all: for bright, clear summer days, warm sun, fresh breeze and your invitation to live fully and joyfully and exuberantly in the good creation you have given us.

We thank you for blessing us with restlessness, and impatience and eagerness. We thank you for your image in us which is what causes us to aspire to greatness, to create, to build, to achieve, to do the best we can, to go higher and faster and to be all you created us to be.

We bless your name, Lord God, for this boat and for what it represents of our humanity: for the effort and sacrifice and aspiration: for the hope and joy of fierce competition ahead: for the discipline of its crew and the skill of its skipper.

Give your gifts of safety and courage and strength to those who will sail her. Give to them and to all those with whom they will compete your blessing and protection and the gift of your strong love which calls us to live fully and joyfully. Bless them and their boat, O God, now and in the days ahead.

Amen.